

Remarks

1. Summary of Office Action

In the office action mailed November 22, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 20, 29, and 41 on grounds of various informalities, the Examiner provisionally rejected claim 1 on grounds of statutory-type double patenting, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 13 and 41 on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting, and the Examiner rejected various claims on grounds of alleged anticipation and obviousness over various references. The Examiner further objected to claims 33, 49, and 50 but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Status of the Claims

Applicant has (i) cancelled claims 1-28, (ii) amended claim 29 to include the limitations of claim 33 and to overcome an objection regarding the term "a user", (iii) amended claim 38 to correct a clear typographical error, (iv) cancelled claims 41-46, (v) amended claim 47 to include the limitations of claims 48 and 49, (vi) cancelled claims 48-49, (vii) amended claim 50 to have it depend from claim 47 instead of from now-cancelled claim 49, (viii) cancelled claim 51-53, and (ix) added new claims depending ultimately from amended claim 29.

Now pending are claims 29-32, 34-40, 47, 50, and 54-61, of which claims 29 and 47 are independent and the remainder are dependent.

3. Response to Rejections

a. Moot Claim Objections/Rejections

As noted above, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-28, 41-46, 48-49, and 51-53. Therefore, the objections and rejections of these claims are now moot.

By canceling these claims, Applicant does not acquiesce in the claim rejections. However, Applicant has cancelled the claims without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

The following subsections relate to the remaining claims.

b. Response to Informality-Objection of Claim 29

The Examiner objected to claim 29 on grounds that the claim recited "a user terminal" in lines 6 and 9 and that it was unclear to the Examiner whether "a user terminal" was the same as "a user terminal" recited in line 4. Applicant has amended claim 29 to change the first two instances of "a user terminal" to "user terminals" instead, to make clear that the proposition recited at that point is a general statement regarding sessions by user terminals, of which "a user terminal" later recited may be one. Applicant submits that this change overcomes the objection.

c. Response to § 102 Rejection of Claim 29

The Examiner rejected claim 29 as being anticipated by Illidge. However, the Examiner objected to claim 33 as depending from a rejected base claim but indicated that claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim and intervening claims. Claim 33 depended directly from claim 29.

Applicant has amended claim 29 to include the limitations of claim 33. As a result, claim 29 now recites a combination of elements that the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Claim 20 is therefore allowable.

Claims 30-32, 34-40, and 54-61 all depend ultimately from claim 29 and are thus allowable for at least the same reason that claim 29 is allowable.

d. Response to § 102 Rejection of Claim 47

The Examiner rejected claim 47 as being anticipated by Illidge. However, the Examiner objected to claims 49 and 50 as depending from a rejected base claim but indicated that claims

49 and 50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim and intervening claims. Claim 49 depended from claim 48, which depended from claim 47.

Applicant has amended claim 47 to include the limitations of claims 48 and 49. As a result, claim 47 now recites a combination of elements that the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Claim 47 is therefore allowable.

Claim 50 depends from claim 47 and is therefore allowable for at least the reason that claim 47 is allowable.

4. Conclusion

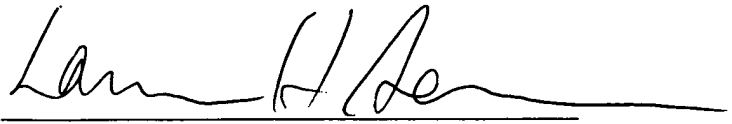
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims 29-32, 34-40, 47, 50, and 54-61 are allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

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